



WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

727 Center Street, NE, Suite 300
Salem, Oregon 97301
800-785-3473 • Fax: 503-365-7893
wfca@wfca.org • www.wfca.org

ALASKA

www.alaskafirechiefs.org

May 23, 2007

ARIZONA

www.azchiefs.org

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

CALIFORNIA

www.calchiefs.org

RE: PS Docket No. 07-8; CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos. 03-264, 06-150, 06-169, and 96-86; and EB Docket No. 06-119

Dear Chairman Martin:

HAWAII

www.hawaiiirechiefs.org

On behalf of emergency responders across the 10 western states, the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) urges the FCC to make the needs and interests of public safety professionals the highest priority during the rulemaking process for the creation of a National Public Safety Broadband Network.

IDAHO

www.idahofirechiefs.org

Successful command and control of major emergency incidents requires immediate access to reliable and robust radio signals by all responders to ensure a well-coordinated, multidisciplinary approach. Currently, mission-critical operations are impeded and responder safety is threatened by the inability to readily communicate between individual "patchworked" systems. For that reason, the WFCA advocates for the creation of a seamless, wireless, broadband public safety radio communications network with sufficient and priority access for data transmissions.

MONTANA

www.montanafirechiefs.org

NEVADA

www.nvfirechf.org

The FCC's planned auction of frequency spectrum in the 700MHz band provides a well-timed opportunity to establish a public/ private partnership in an effort to increase the quantity of available frequencies for first responder data transmissions and to boost and support mission critical land-mobile voice communications with new IP solutions. Such efforts would go a long way toward improving the quality and reliability of on-scene communications as well.

OREGON

www.ofca.org

We specifically request that 10MHz of the 700MHz band currently scheduled for auction by the FCC under the DTV transition act be made available under service rules that require the winner of the auction to enter into a binding agreement with Public Safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network as a prerequisite to receiving their license.

UTAH

www.utahfirechiefs.org

WASHINGTON

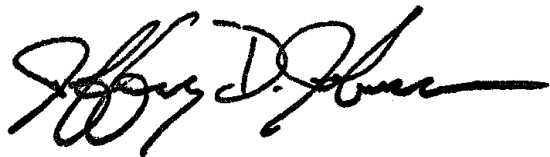
www.wsafo.org

To ensure the network meets the high standards of reliability and redundancy that responders require, the FCC should require that public safety professionals govern the National Public Safety Broadband Network and should license the public safety spectrum allocation to a stand-alone body comprised and governed by public safety professionals. The best benefit would be derived if the network were a self-sustaining enterprise so as to alleviate on-going federal and state funding. In addition, the ability to build out into rural and underserved areas would ensure a truly universal nationwide system.

Optimally, the service rules should only permit commercial use of the network at the discretion of the public safety licensee and only if such use does not harm the network or degrade the quality of service to public safety users. Additionally, steps should be taken to ensure that public safety has the right to negotiate a public-private partnership with any commercial entity regardless of the outcome of the commercial auction.

We salute the FCC for its foresight; emergency responders and the communities they serve will be well-served for your taking this vital step toward creation of the National Public Safety Broadband Network.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chief Jeffrey D. Johnson
President, Western Fire Chiefs Association

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
The Honorable Deborah Tate, Commissioner
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
WFCA Board of Directors